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Chairman: Mr. Asadi ..... (Islamic Republic of Iran)

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Completion of the Committee's work

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Agenda item 91: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*) (A/C.2/53/L.4, L.5, L.20, L.26/Rev.2, L.51, L.55 and L.57)

Draft resolutions on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/C.2/53/L.20 and L.57)

1. **Mr. Özügergin** (Turkey), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.57, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.20. He drew attention to a number of changes. In the second line of the first preambular paragraph, the words "as regard" should be replaced by the words "with regard to". In the second preambular paragraph, the word "to" should be replaced by the word "of". In the fourth preambular paragraph, all the commas in the first line should be deleted as should the commas in the fourth line after the word "address" and the fifth line after the word "offsetting". The second line of paragraph 11 should read "to address in their high-level dialogue, in the spring of 1999, also ways and means on how to".

2. He recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.57, as orally revised, was adopted.*

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.20 was withdrawn.*

5. **Mr. Stevčevski** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.14, said that the sponsors were withdrawing the draft resolution contained in that document because all the important components had been reflected in draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.57, and he expressed the hope that the analytical report of the Secretary-General requested by draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.57 would enable the Committee to consider, at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, specific measures to be taken to prevent further marginalization of the vulnerable economies. The sponsors also expected that the report would fully address the prospect of integration of developing countries into the world economy.

(a) Trade And Development (*continued*)

Draft resolution on international trade and development (A/C.2/53/L.26/Rev.2)

6. **Mr. Özügergin** (Turkey), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.26/Rev.2, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.26/Rev.1, and recommended its adoption by consensus.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.26/Rev.2 was adopted.*

8. **Mr. Hunte** (Saint Lucia) said that his delegation had joined the consensus reluctantly, even though the draft resolution just adopted was an improvement over the previous year's text. In that connection, it was of paramount importance to ensure that the decision-making process of the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was fair and that it took into account the consequences of its rulings, particularly on small, vulnerable economies.

9. In April 1997, the WTO panel had ruled that protocol 5 to the Lomé Convention, which sought to guarantee African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) producers access to the European Union market and improve production and marketing conditions for their commodity, had contravened WTO rules. The appellate body of WTO had upheld that ruling in September 1997 and given the European Commission until 1 January 1999 to implement it; accordingly, the European Commission had introduced a number of changes in its preferential regime with the ACP countries. He noted that such trade preferences were crucial to the development of ACP countries, which were heavily dependent on one crop, required time and resources in order to diversify their economies, and were accorded only 21 per cent of the European Union market for the commodity in dispute (bananas), while the complainant had access to 76 per cent of that market for the same commodity. Deeming the European Commission's actions unsatisfactory, the complainant intended to take unilateral retaliatory measures by applying its domestic laws, unconcerned that that would constitute a violation of WTO rules.

10. The WTO ruling raised questions about other import arrangements for agricultural goods as well as the future of trade and development cooperation agreements between rich and poor countries. The WTO criteria for settling disputes must be redesigned to take into account social, health, cultural and environmental issues. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution on international trade and development submitted to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly would be balanced, reflect the serious concerns of Member States and recognize the weaknesses in the WTO mechanism that needed to be addressed.

11. **Mr. Herawan** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus and expressed his appreciation to the representative of Singapore, who had acted as facilitator

for the negotiations, and to the sponsors, whom Norway wished to join. He praised the constructive spirit that had prevailed during the difficult negotiations and expressed the hope that resolutions on international trade and development would be more forceful in future years.

12. **Mr. Bune** (Fiji) expressed his delegation's full support for the statement delivered by the representative of Saint Lucia. His delegation was deeply concerned over the serious erosion of trade preferences, which were vital to the development of small island developing States. It welcomed the recognition by the recent high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council that the generalized system of preferences (GSP) remained a major instrument for further improving market access of developing countries.

13. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.26/Rev.2 should have made a specific reference to the marginalization of a large number of developing countries, and another to trading preferences, as had the related draft resolution on globalization. He hoped that the draft resolution submitted to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly on international trade and development would more fully reflect his delegation's concerns.

14. **Mr. Özügergin** (Turkey) expressed appreciation to the Secretariat, particularly the translation services, for the speedy issuance of draft resolution A/C.2/53/26/Rev.2 in all six languages, which, together with the flexibility of delegations, had been crucial to the achievement of a consensus.

15. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:
>
> A/53/15 (Part I) — Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixteenth executive session;
>
> A/53/15 (Part II) — Report of the Trade and Development Board on its seventeenth executive session;
>
> A/53/15 (Part III) — Report of the Trade and Development Board on its eighteenth executive session; and
>
> A/53/510 — Note by the Secretary-General on follow-up to agreed conclusions 1997/1 of the Economic and Social Council (on fostering an enabling environment for development)."

16. *The draft decision was adopted*

(b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on the financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries (A/C.2/53/L.4 and L.55)

17. **Mr. Özügergin** (Turkey), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.55, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.4, and drew the Committee's attention to a number of revisions. In the fourth line of the second preambular paragraph, the word "systems" should be singularized. In the third preambular paragraph, the words "developing and" in the first line should be deleted. The word "financial" in the second line of the fourth preambular paragraph should be deleted as should the word "in" in the first line of the fifth preambular paragraph. In paragraph 11, the comma after the word "crises" should be deleted. In the second line of paragraph 14, the word "the" should be inserted between the words "expedite" and "work". In paragraph 17, the word "framework" should be replaced by the word "frameworks" and in the fifth line of paragraph 20, a comma should be inserted after the word "warning". He recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.55, as orally revised, was adopted.*

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.4 was withdrawn.*

20. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries (A/53/228) and the report of the Secretary-General on high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development: work of the United Nations system (A/53/479)."

21. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(c) Commodities (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on commodities (A/C.2/53/L.5 and L.51)

22. **Mr. Herawan** (Indonesia) said that further informal consultations were necessary.

23. *The meeting was suspended at 5.05 p.m. and resumed at 6.20 p.m.*

24. **Mr. Özügergin** (Turkey), Vice-Chairman, said that, following extensive informal consultations, a consensus had been achieved on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.51, submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Agona. Drawing attention to paragraph 6 (c), he said that the first two lines should read "In the light of the process of multilateral trade liberalization, which has led to the diminution of differentials accorded by preferred trade regimes, there is ...".

25. **Mr. Ouattara** (Côte d'Ivoire), coordinator of the negotiations, added that paragraph 6 (c) should begin: "In light of ...", and that the second line of paragraph 6 (d) should read: "... Governments should have as their objectives to ensure ...".

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.51, as orally revised, was adopted.*

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.5 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 93: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/53/L.36 and L.49)

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (*continued*)

28. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on an assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (A/53/512)."

29. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (A/C.2/53/L.36 and L.49)

30. **Mr. Özügergin** (Turkey), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.49, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.36. Noting that in the third line of the third preambular paragraph the word "a" should be deleted and that the word "panel" should be replaced by the word "panels", he recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

31. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.49, as orally revised, was adopted.*

32. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.36 was withdrawn.*

33. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly takes note of the following documents: letter dated 9 March 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Co-Chairmen's summary report of the First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (A/53/85); report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the development dividend (A/53/374); and note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system (A/53/296)."

34. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 94: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/53/L.16, L.17, L.21, L.25, L.29, L.52, L.53, L.54, L.58 and L.59)

Draft resolutions on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development (A/C.2/53/L.17 and L.59)

35. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.59, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.17. He drew attention to some changes. In the first line of the sixth preambular paragraph, and in the third and sixth lines of paragraph 2, the word "section" should be replaced by the word "part". In the last line of paragraph one, the word "improve" should be replaced by the word "better". He recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.59 was adopted.*

37. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.17 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/C.2/53/L.21 and L.58)

38. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.58, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on

draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.25. He noted that in the fourth line of paragraph 6, the word "the" should be inserted after the word "further" and that, in the fifth line of paragraph 7, the word "further" should be inserted before the word "recognizes". He recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

39. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.58, as orally revised, was adopted.*

40. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.21 was withdrawn.*

(a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/53/L.25 and L.53)

41. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.53, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.25, and recommended its adoption by consensus.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.53 was adopted.*

43. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.25 was withdrawn.*

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*)

44. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly takes note of document A/53/449 containing a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention."

45. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Convention On Biological Diversity (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/C.2/53/L.29 and L.54)

46. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.54, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.29. He drew the Committee's attention to a number of revisions. In the second line of paragraph 2, the word "concerning" should be replaced by "on", the word "programme" pluralized and the word "adopted" inserted after "approach". In paragraph 3, the word "analyses" should be replaced by "analysis". The footnote symbol at the end of paragraph 14 should follow the word "bodies".

47. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.54, as orally revised, was adopted.*

48. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.29 was withdrawn.*

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/C.2/53/L.16 and L.52)

49. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.52, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.16.

50. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.52 was adopted.*

51. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.16 was withdrawn.*

52. **Ms. Bergeron** (United States of America) said that the United States remained committed to the goal of combating desertification and would continue to work with other States to that end, both on a bilateral and on a multilateral basis. Its annual voluntary contributions to the Convention secretariat attested to its support for the implementation of that instrument. While her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, it was deeply concerned that the decision in General Assembly resolution 52/198 to provide funding from the Organization's regular budget for various activities of the Convention Secretariat was reiterated in the second preambular paragraph. Her delegation had opposed that decision and it remained convinced that, while it had been appropriate during the

interim phase for the United Nations to fund those activities, their costs should be borne henceforth by the States parties to the Convention.

53. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly takes note of document A/53/156–E/1998/78 containing the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment."

54. *The draft decision was adopted.*

55. **The Chairman** said that he also wished to bring to the Committee's attention document A/C.2/53/10 containing a letter dated 27 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

Agenda item 95: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/53/L.8 and L.56)

Draft resolutions on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/53/L.8 and L.56)

56. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.56, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.8. He drew the Committee's attention to a number of revisions. In the third line of the first preambular paragraph, the word "and" should be deleted and in the fourth line, the word "resolution" should be pluralized, the words "1996/42 of 26 July 1996 and" being inserted after it. The brackets around paragraphs I and II should be deleted. In paragraph 16, the comma following the word "programmes" in the second line should be deleted and the words ", *inter alia*," inserted after "including". The word "board" in the eighth line should be pluralized. In paragraph 22, an apostrophe should be inserted in the second line after "United Nations". In paragraph 25, the words "in particular" should be replaced by "including" and the phrase "increasing the number of women resident coordinators" should be placed within commas. Paragraph 34, which had been extensively revised, should read as follows:

> "Emphasizes the need to implement the outcome of the major United Nations conferences through fulfilling the commitments and targets agreed at those conferences, and in this context stresses the importance to accelerate efforts for the coordinated follow-up of major United Nations conferences, and in this context welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/290, in which the Council decided on a step-by-step basis an intergovernmental process on relevant indicators to monitor the implementation of conference outcomes at all levels, and in this context also welcomes the decision to hold an informal Council meeting on this issue in 1999;".

In paragraph 38, the word "strikes" should be replaced by "strike". In paragraph 60, a comma should be inserted after "1999". In paragraph 62, the word "of" should be inserted in the fourth line after "including".

57. **Mr. Yu Qingtai** (China) drew attention to a number of inconsistencies in the Chinese version of the text, which he trusted would be corrected subsequently by the Secretariat.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.56, as orally revised, was adopted.*

59. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.8 was withdrawn.*

60. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly takes note of the following documents: Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/53/226 and Adds.1–4); note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Fellowships in the United Nations system' (A/53/154); note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/53/363)."

61. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 98: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) (*continued*) (A/C.2/53/L.27 and L.48)

Draft resolutions on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/C.2/53/L.27 and L.48)

62. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.48, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.27.

63. **Mr. Yu Qingtai** (China) requested that the Secretariat make a number of corrections to the Chinese version of the text.

64. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.48 was adopted.*

65. *Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.27 was withdrawn.*

66. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly takes note of document A/53/223 containing the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty."

67. *The draft decision was adopted.*

68. **The Chairman** said that he should also like to bring to the Committee's attention document A/C.2/53/7 containing the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as an introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty.

Draft biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 1999–2000 (A/C.2/53/L.50)

69. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) drew the Committee's attention to a number of corrections based on the draft resolutions just adopted. On page 2, under item 2, for the year 1999, a sub-item (b) should be inserted, entitled "Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries". Accordingly, "trade and development" would become sub-item (c). On page 3, the third report listed should read: "Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/L.26/Rev.2 on developments in the multilateral trading system ..."; "(draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.26/Rev.1)"should be deleted. On page 5, the third report under item 5 should be replaced by "Report of the Secretary-General on actions undertaken to implement Part IV A of the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.59)".

70. On page 6, in the second report listed under the documentation for sub-item 5 (a), "taken" should be replaced by "undertaken in the United Nations system" and a small "c" should be added at the end to indicate a footnote. On page 7, the documentation under sub-item 5(e) on desertification should be deleted and replaced by "Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.52)". In addition, the second and third reports listed under the documentation for item 6 (a) should be deleted. On page 7, item 9 should be deleted in the light of the withdrawal of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.14 by its sponsors. "Globalization and interdependence" would become item 9, under which the following documentation should be added: "Report of the Secretary-General examining interrelated issues to facilitate better understanding of globalization (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.57)". "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty" would then become item 10. Lastly, on page 10, in the second report listed under the documentation for item 5 (a) for the year 2000, "taken" should be replaced by "undertaken in the United Nations system".

71. **Mr. Khan** (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that a consolidated report would be issued on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, listed under item 1, and on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, listed under item 4 (a).

72. *The draft biennial programme of work for 1999–2000 (A/C.2/53/L.50), as orally revised, was adopted.*

Completion of the Committee's work

73. **The Chairman**, summing up, highlighted three resolutions adopted by the Committee. A very useful consensus had been reached on the issue of the triennial policy review of United Nations operational activities for development; the Committee had added real value in respect of the resolution on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence; and with regard to the resolution on financing for development, he would be keeping the Committee informed of the progress made by the ad hoc working group, which would be starting its work as soon as possible.

74. There had been some lingering doubts and concerns regarding cooperation between the Second and Third Committees, but experience during the current session had demonstrated that joint events should be continued. Economic rights and the right to development would benefit from closer cooperation between the two Committees.

75. The Committee had held 14 special events — panels, briefings and keynote addresses — and efforts should be made in future to try to integrate them better with the Committee's discussion of its agenda items.

76. Efforts had been made to keep statements concise and within the allotted time period, but more could be done to

reduce the number of statements carried over from one meeting to the next. The Secretariat should continue to make every effort to ensure that documents were distributed in good time, and delegations should try to keep to the deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions.

77. The procedure of holding informal consultations in order to localize difficulties seemed to have worked, and the facilitator system had been particularly productive, although there may have been too many facilitators for some of the smaller delegations easily to keep in touch with developments.

78. After an exchange of courtesies, in which **Mr. Donokusumo** (Indonesia), **Mr. Glanzer** (Austria), **Mr. Tchoulkov** (Russian Federation), **Mr. Yuan Shaofu** (China) and **Ms. Figueira** (Venezuela) spoke on behalf of the regional groups of States, he declared that the Second Committee had completed its work for the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 7.25 p.m.